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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,145	01/11/2002	Hans-Bernhard Bolza-Schunemann	P1.1547PCT-US	2529
7590 02/10/2004			EXAMINER	
Douglas R Hanscom Jones Tullar & Cooper PO Box 226 Eads Station Arlington, VA 22202			HINZE, LEO T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/926,145

Applicant(s)

BOLZA-SCHUNEMANN, HANS-
BERNHARD

Examiner

Leo T. Hinze

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41-46 and 49-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41-46 and 49-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not describe how the intermediate support rings may be rotatable with respect to its respective one of said forme cylinder barrel ends, said ink roller barrel ends and said transfer cylinder barrel ends.

3. Further regarding claim 44, the claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification does not describe how the intermediate support rings may be rotatable with respect to its respective one of said forme cylinder barrel ends, said ink roller barrel ends and said transfer cylinder barrel ends.

Based on the 35 U.S.C. 112(1) rejection, no art has been applied to claim 44.

4. Appropriate correction and/or clarification is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 41-43, 45-46, 50, 52, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böck et al., US 6,145,437, in view of Firm, US 170,542.

Böck teaches:

- a printing unit of a rotary printing press comprising: at least one form cylinder (1); a forme cylinder barrel; and an ink unit, said ink unit having at least one of an ink roller (4) and an ink transfer cylinder (3), said at least one of said ink roller and said ink transfer cylinder having barrel ends (claim 41);
- wherein said inking unit includes both said ink roller (4) and said ink transfer cylinder (3) (claim 42);
- wherein said at least one form cylinder and said at least one of said ink roller and said ink transfer cylinder form a printing component (Fig. 1) (claim 52).

Böck does not teach:

- said forme cylinder barrel having first and second forme cylinder barrel end support surfaces; a forme cylinder intermediate support ring with a forme cylinder intermediate

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support ring outer support surface, said forme cylinder intermediate support ring being positioned between said spaced first and second forme cylinder barrel ends; at least one of said ink roller and said ink transfer cylinder having barrel end support surfaces, said at least one of said ink roller and said ink transfer cylinder further having an intermediate support ring with an outer surface between said barrel ends, said intermediate support ring outer surface of said forme cylinder intermediate support ring acting against said intermediate support ring outer surface of said intermediate support ring of said at least one of said ink roller and said ink transfer cylinder and said barrel end support surfaces of said forme cylinder barrel and of said at least one of said ink roller and said ink transfer cylinder barrel acting against each other (claim 41);

- wherein said intermediate support rings are fixed against relative rotation (claim 43);
- wherein said intermediate support rings are each circular support rings (claim 45);
- wherein said support surfaces are level (claim 46);
- wherein said at least one form cylinder has a plurality of axially spaced printing plates (claim 50);
- wherein each said intermediate support ring is located approximately in the center of its respective barrel (claim 55).

Firm teaches:

- said forme cylinder barrel (A) having first and second forme cylinder barrel end support surfaces (Fig. 1); a forme cylinder intermediate support ring (a) with a forme

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cylinder intermediate support ring outer support surface, said forme cylinder intermediate support ring being positioned between said spaced first and second forme cylinder barrel ends; at least one other roller having barrel end support surfaces, said at least one other roller further (B) having intermediate supports (b), said intermediate support ring outer surface of said forme cylinder intermediate support ring acting against said intermediate support ring outer surface of said intermediate support ring of said at least one other roller and said barrel end support surfaces of said forme cylinder barrel and of said at least one other roller acting against each other (claim 41);

- wherein said intermediate support rings are fixed against relative rotation (Fig. 1) (claim 43);
- wherein said intermediate support rings are each circular support rings (Fig. 1) (claim 45);
- wherein said support surfaces are level (Fig. 1) (claim 46);
- wherein said at least one form cylinder has a plurality of axially spaced printing plates (f) (claim 50);
- wherein each said intermediate support ring is located approximately in the center of its respective barrel (Fig. 1) (claim 55);
- wider presses allow more webs to be printed upon simultaneously (col. 2, lines 36-38);

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- cylinders in a wide press may be supported intermediately of their length, to prevent springing and yielding that would interfere with the quality of the printing (col. 2, lines 14-20).

Regarding claims 41, 43, 45-46, 50, and 55, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Böck wherein the cylinders are longer and the form and other rollers, including inking rollers, have intermediate support rings which contact intermediate support rings on other cylinders, and with the particular structure as taught by Firm, because Firm teaches longer cylinders allow more webs to be printed, and that intermediate support rings on rollers are advantageous when necessary in wide presses to prevent springing and yielding of rollers that may interfere with printing quality.

Regarding claims 42 and 52, the combination of Böck and Firm teaches all that is claimed as discussed above.

7. Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böck in view of Firm as applied to claims 41-43, 45-46, 50, 52, and 55 above, and further in view of Koppelkamm et al., US 6,408,747.

The combination of Böck and Firm teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the above rejection of claims 41-46, 50, 52, and 55, except a blanket cylinder having a plurality of axially spaced rubber blankets.

Koppelkamm teaches a printing unit with a plurality of rubber blankets (14.1, 14.2) axially spaced on a cylinder (4). Koppelkamm teaches that multiple rubber blankets are

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advantageous in a press with multiple plates on the plate cylinder, for the economic printing of multifarious products (col. 1, lines 30-31).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Böck to include multiple rubber blankets, because Koppelkamm teaches that wider presses with multiple forms and rubber blankets allow the economic printing of multifarious products.

8. Claims 51 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böck in view of Firm as applied to claims 41-43, 45-46, 50, 52, and 55 above, and further in view of Erhard et al., US 5,558,021.

The combination of Böck and Firm teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claims 41-46, 50, 52, and 55 above, including:

- wherein each of said form cylinder and said least one of said ink roller and said ink transfer cylinder each have an axis of rotation (claim 51).

The combination of Böck and Firm does not teach:

- said axes of rotation being located on a common plane (claim 51);
- wherein said common plane extends horizontally (claim 53);

Erhard teaches:

- said axes of rotation being located on a common plane (claim 51);
- wherein said common plane extends horizontally (claim 53);
- that a printing device arranged as taught in Erhard is compact and efficient (col. 2, lines 2-3).

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Böck wherein said axes of rotation are located on a common horizontal plane, because Erhard teaches that such an arrangement produces a compact and efficient printing device.

9. Claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böck in view of Firm and Erhard as applied to claims 51 and 53 above, and further in view of Zorn, US 5,865,120.

The combination of Böck, Firm, and Erhard teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claims 51 and 53 above, except wherein said common plane extends at an angle with respect to a horizontal plane.

Zorn teaches a printing machine with an ink roller (11), ink transfer cylinder (9), and form cylinder (6), each with an axis of rotation on a common plane, said plane extending at an angle (Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Böck wherein said common plane extends at an angle, because Zorn teaches that such an arrangement of cylinders and rollers is well known in the art, and one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that such an arrangement is an acceptable alternative to the arrangement of Böck.

10. Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böck in view of Firm as applied to claims 41-43, 45-46, 50, 52, and 55 above, and further in view of Rodi, US 5,809,883.

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The combination of Böck and Firm teaches all that is claimed as discussed in the rejection of claims 41-46, 50, 52, and 55 above, except wherein each said support ring is a Schmitz ring.

Rodi teaches a printing machine with two contacting cylinders further having contacting barrel end supports, wherein the supports can be bearer or Schmitz rings (col. 1, line 17).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Böck wherein each said support ring is a Schmitz ring, because Rodi teaches that bearing rings and Schmitz rings are well known alternatives in the art, and one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that Schmitz rings could be substituted for bearing rings.

Response to Arguments

11. Regarding the applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 41-46, 52, and 55 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Böck in view of Firm, the examiner respectfully disagrees that Firm specifically teaches away from the structure of the subject invention as recited in claim 41. While Firm may not specifically teach the structure of the subject invention as recited in claim 41, Firm does not specifically teach that such a structure is unsuccessful or otherwise undesirable. The absence of a specific teaching toward a structure in a reference does not necessarily imply that a reference teaches away from a structure. By teaching that intermediate supports for wide cylinders are advantageous and desirable for preventing springing and yielding which can cause poor print quality (Firm, col. 2, lines 14-20), Firm provides sufficient motivation to one having ordinary skill in the art to use intermediate supports

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in any situation on any two pairs of cylinders when the goal is to prevent the cylinders from springing or yielding and thereby causing poor print quality.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leo T. Hinze whose telephone number is (571) 272-2167. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Leo T. Hinze
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5 February, 2004



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